

New York State Green Procurement Program
Response to Comments on

Proposed Specification on Mops

Background: A specification for mops was given tentative approval by the Executive Order 4 Interagency Committee on April 15, 2022. This was part of a package of cleaning products specifications designed to align with the work done on the new multi-state green cleaning contract (FAC118) led by the State of Massachusetts.

Commenting Entities: Clean and Healthy New York, Environmental Advocates of New York, Green Inside and Out, New York League of Conservation Voters, Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, and WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Issues Raised by These Organizations During the Comment Period:

1. Remove the preference for microfiber mops

Comments:

The commenting entities stated that there should not be a preference for microfiber materials in mops due to the possibility of the release of microplastic into waterways.

Response:

The GreenNY Council appreciates the commenter raising this concern around microfiber and its contribution of microplastics to water streams. The specification has been amended in response to this comment.

Recommendation:

Remove the preference for microfiber mops and if there are no other option, follow additional criteria for a more preferable type of microfiber.

Commenting Entities: Vinyl Institute

Issues raised by the Vinyl Institute During the Comment Period:

2. Remove the restrictions on PVC in mop handles

Comments: The restriction on PVC in mop handles should be removed.

Response: The GreenNY Council has adopted similar restrictions on PVC in other product categories due to the hazards of the chemicals used to create PVC and concerns about end-of-life disposal. Vinyl chloride, which is polymerized to create PVC, is classified as a human carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. In addition, ethylene dichloride, also known as 1,2-dichloroethane, is used in the creation of vinyl chloride and has been described as reasonably anticipated to be a human

carcinogen by the National Toxicology Program (NTP). Overall, PVC continues to be the lowest scoring plastic resin on The Plastics Scorecard, a tool developed by Clean Production Action to evaluate the chemical footprint of plastics.

Recommendation: Keep the restriction on PVC in broom handles.